

HERPETOLOGY.—*A subspecies of the lizard Xantusia riversiana*.<sup>1</sup> HOBART M. SMITH, A. and M. College, College Station, Tex. (Communicated by HERBERT FRIEDMANN.)

Specimens of *Xantusia riversiana* illustrated by Van Denburgh (Occ. Pap. California Acad. Sci. 10: pl. 51. 1922) and by Smith (Handb. Lizards: pls. 89; 90. 1946) indicate a difference in pattern between topotypic material from San Nicolas Island and that from Santa Barbara and San Clemente Islands.

These islands, with Santa Catalina, form a semicircular group of four off the coast of southern California. They comprise the southern group of the Santa Barbara Islands. Santa Catalina is nearest the mainland (20 miles) and is slightly the largest. The southernmost, San Clemente, lies 25 miles south of Santa Catalina and is but little smaller than the latter. The others lie to the west of Santa Catalina; Santa Barbara, a very small island, is about 25 miles due west, and San Nicolas, of intermediate size, is about 35 miles southwest of the latter.

Oddly enough, the species is not known from Santa Catalina Island, although it occurs on all the others and is restricted to them. Santa Catalina is inhabited by some three mainland forms of lizards, possibly four of snakes, and two of amphibians. Only *Xantusia* occurs on the other islands, except on San Clemente where *Uta stansburiana* is recorded. Presence of king snakes possibly accounts for the absence of *Xantusia* on Santa Catalina Island. Regardless of the reason for the absence of *Xantusia*, there is no question that Santa Catalina is markedly different faunistically from the other islands, which have a nearly uniform and almost totally impoverished fauna.

Isolated as are these islands, apparently long distinct from the mainland, it is not surprising that animals in them show some differentiation. It is not improbable that the population of *Uta stansburiana* on San Clemente has differentiated to some degree. Certainly *Xantusia* has done so. The

only endemic form recognized at present on any island of the southern group is *Batrachoseps attenuatus catalinae* on Santa Catalina Island. One other, *Xantusia riversiana*, is endemic to the group as a whole. *B. a. pacificus*, restricted otherwise to the northern group of the Santa Barbara Islands (San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Ana Capa) has been suggested to occur on Santa Barbara Island by Bishop (Handb. Salamanders: 323. 1943), but this seems very dubious in view of the completely different faunas of the northern and southern groups of these islands (they share only two—*Hyla regilla* and *Uta stansburiana*—in the total of 15 forms, eight others in the southern and five others in the northern group occurring in the entire group). If Bishop's suggestion proves correct it is probable that the name should apply to *B. a. catalinae*.

Specimens available at the present time include one *X. riversiana* from San Clemente Island and three from San Nicolas Island.<sup>2</sup> These differ from one another in at least four respects not obviously subject to individual variation within the total limits observed; it is assumed that further specimens will prove the relative constancy of at least some if not all the differences discerned. Unfortunately, material from Santa Barbara Island is not readily available to me; there is little question, however, that it too will prove to be somewhat different from the topotypes.

It is suggested that the population on San Clemente Island be known as—

***Xantusia riversiana reticulata*, n. subsp.**

*Holotype*.—U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service no. 9228, collected on San Clemente Island in the summer of 1940; received from C. W. Kern.

*Diagnosis*.—Similar to *Xantusia riversiana riversiana* of San Nicolas Island except: pre-anals irregular, smaller; gulars nearly uniform,

<sup>1</sup> Received September 3, 1946.

<sup>2</sup> I am indebted to Francis M. Uhler for the privilege of studying these specimens.

scarcely enlarged medially; preular fold poorly developed; dorsal head scales exceedingly pitted, corrugated, broken up; dorsolateral light line not evident; dorsal surfaces, including those of legs, boldly reticulated or spotted with black.

*Description of holotype.*—Dorsal head scales normal, except exceedingly pitted and corrugated, rendering the sutures well-nigh indiscernible; central gulars between the anterior and posterior preular folds small, 24 from rear of former and front of latter; anterior preular fold poorly defined, with no more than one or two rows of small scales; largest preanals scarcely wider than widest abdominal plates; preanals not clearly in two rows. No evidence of a dorsolateral light streak; back covered with clear-cut, dark marks, which effect a reticulated pattern; limbs and head reticulated and spotted; tail irregularly lined and spotted above; belly and sides of throat with rather numerous small black flecks.

The holotype is illustrated on plate 90 of the *Handbook of lizards of the United States* (Smith, 1946).

*Comparisons.*—In the three topotypic *X. r. riversiana* the sutures between the dorsal head scales are clearly apparent, although some pits are present. The central gulars are somewhat enlarged: a longitudinal count of 20 or 21 is obtained from the rear of the anterior preular fold to the front of the posterior. The anterior preular fold is well defined and contains three or four rows of small scales. The largest preanals are as wide as two adjacent, small abdominals, and nearly twice as wide as any one of the widest abdominals. The preanals are clearly in two longitudinal rows. All show evidence of a dorsolateral light streak on each side (see pl. 89, *Handb. Lizards. 1946*); those in which the light lines are less evident have less distinct dark markings. The legs are dimly marked. The belly and sides of the gular region are not or sparsely marked.

*Remarks.*—In pattern *X. r. reticulata* resembles to some extent the specimen illustrated by Van Denburgh (op. cit.: pl. 51, fig. 2) from Santa Barbara Island. The two populations may be consubspecific.

ICHTHYOLOGY.—*Systematics of an American atherine fish, Melanorhinus microps (Poey).*<sup>1</sup> CARL L. HUBBS and LEONARD P. SCHULTZ.)

*American atherine fish, Melanorhinus*<sup>S</sup> and LUIS R. RIVAS. (Communicated

Among the most distinctive of the many New World Atherinidae are the species that have been referred to *Melanorhinus* and to *Mugilops*. Although it was evident for several years, the conclusion that *Mugilops* Meek and Hildebrand (1923, p. 271) is a synonym of *Melanorhinus* Metzelaar (1919, p. 38) was first published by Myers and Wade (1942, p. 139).

Two species of *Melanorhinus*, both Tropical, are currently recognized, namely *M. cyanellus* (Meek and Hildebrand) of the Pacific and *M. boekei* Metzelaar of the Atlantic. The Pacific representative was treated in detail by Meek and Hildebrand

(1923, pp. 271–272, pl. 22, fig. 1), by Myers and Wade (1942, pp. 139–141), and by Fowler (1944, pp. 219–220, 244, 408, 497, fig. 132). Myers and Wade recognized *Mugilops marinus* Meek and Hildebrand as a synonym of *Melanorhinus boekei* Metzelaar. In preparing a supplementary treatise on the marine fishes of Panama, Hildebrand (personal communication) has concurred in this opinion. We now find that the Atlantic species was named much earlier, as *Atherina microps*, by Poey. The synonymy of *Melanorhinus microps* follows.

**Melanorhinus microps (Poey)**

*Atherina microps* Poey, 1860, p. 266 (original description; locality not specified, but presumably Habana, Cuba).—Jordan, 1887, p. 571 (West Indies).—Jordan and Evermann, 1896, pp. 789, 791–792 (comparisons; description, after Poey; Havana).—Jordan and Hubbs, 1919, pp. 48–49 (referred to

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